



FACT SHEET: NATIONAL REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

In April 2014 Environment Ministers agreed to work together to identify opportunities to streamline or reform unworkable, contradictory or incompatible regulation across Australia as part of the National Review of Environmental Regulation (the Review). The Review was established in response to a 2013 election commitment.

Seven themes were agreed for investigation under the Review:

- Species and heritage listing processes
- Opportunities for better practice regulation
- Biodiversity regulation (including offsets)
- Chemicals
- Integrated waste management
- Product stewardship
- Simplification of land planning, including on Commonwealth land.

Progress to date

An Interim Report on the Review, agreed by Environment Ministers in February 2015, provides a snapshot of the regulatory reform effort being undertaken by all jurisdictions, and identifies potential opportunities for further reforms to improve environmental outcomes. The Interim Report is available on the Department of the Environment's website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/node/38549>.

Consideration of the chemicals, waste and product stewardship themes is proposed to be deferred until current reforms are finalised/implemented.

In July 2015 Environment Ministers agreed to progress an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding to implement a common assessment method for listing nationally threatened species, and where agreed, ecological communities.

Next steps

The next themes to be considered under the Review are biodiversity regulation (incorporating the land planning theme) and heritage listing. The review is taking a structured, evidence based approach to the analysis of these themes, with the current focus being problem identification/definition.

The Review is not just looking at the efficiency of existing regulation but is taking a 'first principles' approach to consider the magnitude of any problems, the consequences of not doing anything and whether government intervention, at any level, is effective or could be improved. Subsequent stages will investigate who is best placed to address the identified problems and the most appropriate tools to achieve the objectives.

Input will be sought from a range of stakeholders at various stages of the review, but particularly during the problem identification stage and during the assessment of appropriate tools to achieve environmental outcomes, including non-regulatory tools.

Timing of the Review

The key output of the Review is a Final Report which will recommend potential reform opportunities and/or identify areas for further investigation. It is proposed the Report be provided to Environment Ministers for consideration in 2016.

Contacts

If you would like further information on the Review please don't hesitate to contact the department on 1800 803 772.